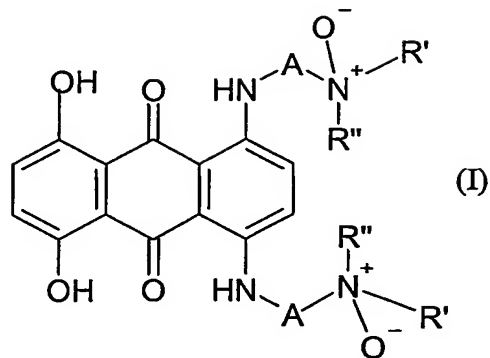


CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I):



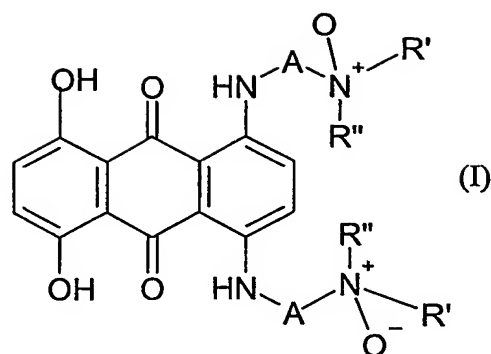
- 5 in which A is a C alkylene group with a chain length between NH and N(O)R'R'' of at least 2 carbon atoms and R' and R'' are each separately selected from C₁₋₄ alkyl groups and C₂₋₄ hydroxyalkyl and C₂₋₄ dihydroxyalkyl groups in which the carbon atom attached to the nitrogen atom does not carry a hydroxy group and no carbon atom is substituted by two hydroxy groups, or R' and R'' together are a C₂₋₆ alkylene group which with the nitrogen atom to which R' and R'' are attached forms a heterocyclic group having 3 to 7 atoms in the ring,
- 10

characterised in that the compound is formulated so that upon dissolution in aqueous solution the pH of the solution is in the range of 5 to 9.

- 15 2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 characterised in that the compound is formulated so that upon dissolution in aqueous solution the pH of the solution is in the range of 6 to 8.

3. A compound as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 characterised in that the compound is used in the form of a salt with an physiologically acceptable acid having a pK_a in the range of -3.0 (minus 3.0) to 9.0.
- 20

4. A compound of formula (I):



in which A is a C alkylene group with a chain length between NH and N(O)R'R'' of at least 2 carbon atoms and R' and R'' are each separately selected from C₁₋₄ alkyl groups and C₂₋₄ hydroxyalkyl and C₂₋₄ dihydroxyalkyl groups in which the carbon atom attached to the nitrogen atom does not carry a hydroxy group and no carbon atom is substituted by two hydroxy groups, or R' and R'' together are a C₂₋₆ alkylene group which with the nitrogen atom to which R' and R'' are attached forms a heterocyclic group having 3 to 7 atoms in the ring,

characterised in that the compound is in the form of a salt with a physiologically acceptable acid having a pK_a in the range of -3.0 (minus 3.0) to 9.0.

5. A compound as claimed in claim 3 or 4 characterised in that the physiologically acceptable acid has a pK_a in the range of 2.0 to 9.0.

15 6. A compound as claimed in claim 5 characterised in that the physiologically acceptable acid has a pK_a in the range of 2.0 to 6.0.

7. A compound as claimed in claim 6 characterised in that the physiologically acceptable acid has a pK_a in the range of 3.0 to 6.0.

20

8. A compound as claimed in claim 3 characterised in that the physiologically acceptable is an organic mono-, di- or tri-acid.

9. A compound as claimed in claim 3 or 4 characterised in that the physiologically acceptable selected from the group consisting of tartaric acid, malonic acid, dichloroacetate acid, citric acid, maleic acid, benzenesulfonic acid, pimelic acid and acetic acid.

25

10. A compound as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that A is a straight chain alkylene group.
- 5 11. A compound as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that A is ethylene.
12. A compound as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that R' and R'' are straight chain alkyl groups or hydroxy-substituted alkyl groups.
- 10 13. A compound as claimed in claim 12 characterised in that R' and R'' are each CH₃ or CH₂CH₃.
14. A compound as claimed in claim 13 characterised in that each group of
15 formula NH-A-N(O)R'R'' is group of formula NH-(CH₂)₂-N(O)(CH₃)₂.
15. A compound as claimed in any preceding claim characterised in that the compound is formulated in a mixture containing additional components so that upon dissolution in aqueous solution the pH of the solution is buffered to be in the range of
20 5 to 9.
16. An aqueous solution of a compound as claimed in any preceding claim, characterised in that the pH of the solution is in the range of 5 to 9.
- 25 17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 14 together with a physiologically acceptable diluent or carrier.
18. A compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 15 for use in
30 therapy.